



Competitive Carriers Association  
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**Competitive Carriers Association**  
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February 18, 2013

**Via ECFS**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WT Docket No. 10-4**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Competitive Carriers Association (CCA) submits this ex parte presentation pursuant to Section 1.1204(a)(10) of the Commission's rules. Specifically, Maria Kirby (Legal Advisor in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau) requested information from CCA on Friday, February 15, 2013 regarding voluntary consent for use of signal boosters on its members' networks. CCA supports the Commission's efforts to enhance the quality of consumers' wireless experiences through the use of signal boosters.<sup>1</sup> CCA's main policy goal is fostering competition in the mobile market,<sup>2</sup> and implementation of clear rules for signal boosters that protect consumers, manufacturers and incumbent licensees is consistent with that goal. As such, many CCA carrier members have agreed to consider voluntarily authorizing customers' operation of signal boosters on their networks.

In its previous ex parte, CCA outlined the consensus position among its carrier members on this issue. CCA recommended that manufacturers be responsible for obtaining authorization for the operation of narrowband boosters from each licensee of spectrum in a particular geographic area on which the booster is intended to operate, and authorization for the operation of wideband signal boosters from the licensee(s) whose spectrum the booster amplifies.<sup>3</sup> CCA opposed "blanket licensing" by rule for boosters not expressly approved by carriers, but noted that carriers could nonetheless issue blanket consent for boosters meeting the technical requirements of the Safe Harbors set forth in the Joint Proposal previously submitted by Nextivity, Inc., T-Mobile USA, Inc., V-COMM L.L.C., Verizon

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<sup>1</sup> Amendment of Parts 1, 2, 22, 24, 27, 90 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Improve Wireless Coverage Through the Use of Signal Boosters, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket No. 10-4 (rel. Apr. 6, 2011).

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Rebecca Murphy Thompson, General Counsel, Competitive Carriers Association to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, WT Docket No. 10-4 (filed Nov. 7, 2012) (CCA Ex Parte Letter).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 1-2.

Wireless and Wilson Electronics.<sup>4</sup> CCA further recommended the creation of a central, electronically-available and manufacturer-managed database through which customers would register their boosters.<sup>5</sup>

Consistent with this previous filing, many CCA carrier members have agreed to consider voluntarily authorizing customers' operation of signal boosters on their networks, provided that such boosters have received FCC equipment authorization under technical specifications consistent with one of the Safe Harbor provisions contained in the Joint Proposal. These voluntary carrier authorizations would be subject to certain conditions, including but not limited to:

- the consumer registers its booster;
- the booster at all times operates in accordance with the technical specifications it was authorized under;
- carriers be permitted to immediately withdraw their consent if a booster is found to cause interference to the carrier's network;
- the consumer must immediately terminate use of the booster upon notification from a carrier that the booster is causing interference, and that carriers be permitted to enforce such determinations through a process developed by the FCC; and
- the Commission consider a forward-looking requirement that signal boosters be designed in a manner that prevents their operation unless registered with a manufacturer database, and enabled to allow carriers to de-activate the booster remotely if interference occurs.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter. This *ex parte* notification is being filed electronically with your office pursuant to Sections 1.1203(a)(1), 1.1204(a)(10) and 1.1206(b)(2)(v) of the Commission's Rules.

Sincerely,

/s/

Rebecca Murphy Thompson  
General Counsel

cc (via email): Ms. Ruth Milkman  
Mr. John Leibovitz  
Mr. Roger Noel  
Ms. Joyce Jones  
Ms. Maria Kirby

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.* (citing Letter from Nextivity, Inc., T-Mobile USA, Inc., V-COMM L.L.C., Verizon Wireless and Wilson Electronics to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, WT Docket No. 10-4 (filed Jun. 8, 2012) ("Joint Proposal")).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*